

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 were pending in this application and have been rejected in the Office Action.

To summarize the claim changes made in this Amendment, some minor editorial amendments have been made (including an amendment to claim 20 in response to the Examiner's objection). No new matter is thus considered to be presented by these amendments.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Ikenoya, USP 4,493,667. The Examiner recites that Ikenoya discloses a "shroud wall (attached at 47 near character 45, Figure 2) arranged independently form an inner surface of the casing, and the shroud wall has a base (where attached) and free end (where it is unattached) and near the intake region.

Applicants respectfully submit that the Ikenoya reference fails to disclose the features of independent claim 1 as to form a basis for a rejection under 35 USC 102 or 103.

To better appreciate the deficiencies in the Ikenoya reference, a review is first made of a preferred embodiment of Applicants' invention. As disclosed in the present application there is provided a scroll surface 89 that is formed by a shroud wall 90 and an inner surface of a transmission case 53, and that scroll surface extends along the circumference of a primary pulley 56 which has fan blades 87, so as to increase the clearance in the radial direction of the pulley 56 between the outermost end of the fan blades 87 and the scroll surface 89 along the rotational direction of the fan blades 87. As a result, a back pressure disturbing the flow of the cooling air can be highly suppressed.

Regarding the above assertion raised in the prior art rejection noted above, Ikenoya discloses the following:

A spiral chamber 43 is defined between an inner peripheral surface of the casing 5 surrounding a front half peripheral portion of the drive pulley 8 and the same front half peripheral portion, particularly a fan 44, hereinafter referred to, on the drive face element 16, as best shown in FIG. 2. This spiral chamber 43 spirally extends about the axis of the crankshaft 7 with its volume gradually increasing in the rotating direction of the drive pulley 8, that is, in the advancing direction of air blown by the revolving fan 44. (Column 4, lines 49-58)

Then, the air is blown radially outward due to centrifugal force produced by the fan 44 on the drive face element 16, into the spiral chamber 43 located around the drive face element 16. The air travels in the spiral chamber 43 without a drop in its velocity and flow rate **due to the gradually increasing volume of the chamber 43** in the air flow direction, to be strongly blown against associated inner surfaces of the peripheral wall 40 of the casing 5 for effective heat radiation to the outside through the casing 5 and also widely distributed to various portions in the chamber B for prevention of overheating of the belt 11. (Column 8, lines 1-12)

A review of the above disclosure in Ikenoya establishes that the gradually increasing volume air flow chamber 43 is defined only by the inner peripheral surface of the casing 5.

Furthermore, a review of Figures 2, 3, 9 and 10 and the associated disclosure reveals the arrangement for passage member 46 which is designed as a recirculation air flow bridge between the two chambers in the casing defined by the vertically bisecting plate 41 extending between the pulleys. As further shown and described in Ikenoya this recirculation facilitating bridge 46 features a thin radially extending base plate 48 that is mounted on the back wall of the casing (as presented in Figure 2) which supports the bridging passage portion 49 that, in turn, supports the radially inwardly directed flow guide portion 50 having elastomeric strips for contact with then inner surface of the forward wall (removed in Figure 2) of the casing. The base portion or foot portion 48

noted above is secured by way of bosses (not shown) that are considered to provide for sufficient clearance for achieving the recirculation of air from the air rising up and traveling in the rear chamber “A” over onto the transversely extending bridging passage portion 49 into chamber “B”.

Thus, Ikenoya only discloses that its spiral chamber is formed by the casing wall and the blades; and there is further described a bridging plate that has a recirculation intake region in the area which is at a similar location as the asserted “attached at 47 near character 45, Figure 2” language in the Office Action. It is thus respectfully submitted that there is lacking a shroud wall like that defined in the present invention and that the Office Action fails to show such a shroud wall as the reference only discloses a casing based spiral volume arrangement and each of the cross-sectional Figures such as Figures 3 and 10 fail to disclose other than a casing wall in the noted region. Ikenoya additionally describes a chamber bridging flow device 46 (the very asserted inventive feature in Ikenoya) that is positioned such that its intake region would be disrupted by an addition of a shroud wall. Thus an obvious assertion is also considered to be unavailable based on the disclosure of Ikenoya and, accordingly, the withdrawal of the prior art rejection raised against claims 1-20 based on Ikenoya is respectfully requested.

Also, as Ikenoya fails to disclose a shroud wall it also fails to disclose additional features presented by the dependent claims. For example, Ikenoya fails to disclose an intake port of its casing positioned near the intake region of the shroud wall (e.g., claim 13) as the focus of the disclosure in Ikenoya is on the bridging air recirculation device; nor is there any disclosure of a shroud wall like that of the claimed invention which is a shroud wall that is arranged independently from an inner surface of

the case (claim 12), or one that has a free or unattached end (claim 15), or one that has a shroud wall that extends sufficient so as to extend to an interior region of a loop path defined by said belt (claim 17).

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims are patentably distinguishable over Ikenoya and that the Application stands in condition for allowance and Applicant looks forward to confirmation of the same at the Examiner's earliest convenience. Also, if any fees are due in connection with the filing of this amendment, such as fees under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17, please charge the fees to Deposit Account 02-4300; Order No. 032405R172.

Respectfully submitted,
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